

Upcoming Events

| | | | |
|-----------|--------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|
| July | Sat 29 | North Island Teams Tourn. | North Harbour |
| | Sat 29 – Sun 30 | Wanganui Open | Wanganui |
| | Sat 29 – Sun 30 | North Harbour Open | North Harbour |
| August | Sat 5 – Sun 6 | Manawatu Open | Palm North |
| | Sat 12 – Sun 13 | Canterbury Open | Christchurch |
| | Sat 12 – Sun 13 | Auckland Open | Auckland |
| | Sat 19 – Sun 20 | Wellington Open | Wellington |
| | Sat 26 – Sun 27 | Waikato Open | Hamilton |
| | Sat 26 – Sun 27 | South Canterbury Open | Timaru |
| | Sun 27 | Hutt Valley Developing Juniors | Petone |
| September | Sat 2 – Sun 3 | Waitemata Open | Waitemata |
| | Sat 9 – Sun 10 | Hutt Valley Open | Petone |
| | Sat 16 – Mon 25 | Olympic Games Table Tennis | Sydney |
| | Sat 30 – Sun 8 Oct | New Zealand Open | Christchurch |
| November | Sat 18 – Sat 25 | Australian Veteran Championships | Campbelltown NSW |

Serving Food

An interesting printing error was spotted in an old coaching manual: "...when receiving a short service to the forehand or middle of the table, make sure the right food is under the table...."

This wasn't the only misprint and the grammar in general suggested it was written or translated by someone for whom English was the third or fourth language but the article had a useful message. It stressed the importance of correct footwork for receiving different kinds of serve and suggested getting someone to serve multi-balls to different parts of the table so you can practise getting your feet into the correct position quickly.

Next issue of **TT INFO**

Budget constraints have forced the number of issues of **TT INFO** to 3 per year.

The next issue will be in October, replacing the September and November issues.

The good news is that from the March issue we increased the number of pages by 4.



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Phone (04) 9162459 Fax (04) 4712152 P O Box 867
Level 5, Compudigm House 49 Boulcott St, Wellington
E-mail - ttnz@tabletennis.org.nz
World Wide Web - <http://www.tabletennis.org.nz>



Compiled and edited by:
Robin Radford and John Kiley Ph 04-232 5672
16 St Edmund Cres Tawa Fax 04-232 9172
Wellington E-Mail rradford@paradise.net.nz

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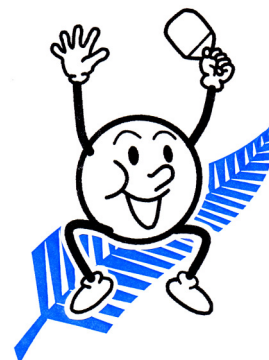


TABLE TENNIS INFO

Issue: 15

July 2000

CLEAN SWEEP TO CHUNLI AT OCEANIAS

"If Li Chunli plays as well at the Sydney Olympics as she did in the final stages of the Oceania Championships she rates as a definite medal prospect," said manager James Morris when the team returned from Koumac, New Caledonia, last month. This view is shared by many others who watched her beat Australia's two best, Miao Miao and Jan Fang Lay, in the singles semi-final and final respectively. Chunli's performance was determined, courageous and in some rallies reached heights never before seen from her playing in New Zealand colours. She won the singles final three straight and also collected gold medals in the women's and mixed doubles.

She is now back in Japan planning her build-up for the Olympics in September.

Heaps more on Oceania inside.



Making Table Tennis Funny!

Feature article on exhibition tt - Page 16.

Some writings on the Oceania Championships,

Koumac, New Caledonia, 3 - 9 June

compiled by John Kiley

Li Sisters, Hubbard Perform Well

Karen Li provided strong support for her sister, **Li Chunli**, as they beat Australia's star pairing of Jan Fang Lay and Miao Miao 21-19 in the fifth in a nail-biting women's doubles final at the Oceania Championships.

Andrew Hubbard was the only New Zealander to reach the men's semi-final. He had an excellent win over Australia's Brett Clarke, storming home in the fifth game from 15-19 down. A rampant Russell Lavale (Australia) then denied Hubbard a place in the final, making the men's singles the only open final not to feature any New Zealanders. Lavale lost to Simon Gerada, also from Australia, who had earlier been extended to five games in the quarter-final by New Zealand's **Aaron Winborn**. Gerada, still under 20, is clearly a man to watch. He showed his rapid improvement last year by qualifying for a singles spot at the Olympics.

Chunli combined with **Peter Jackson** to win an all New Zealand mixed doubles final after **Shane Laugesen** and **Karen Li** had pulled back from 0-2 down in the semis to beat second seeds Russell Lavale and Jan Fang Lay. And in the men's doubles Jackson and Laugesen collected silver, losing to Gerada and Lavale (the two singles finalists) in a see-sawing battle which they all but won, after leading 2-1 and only losing the fourth 21-19.

TEAM EVENTS: SECOND PRIZE ONLY

With memories of New Zealand's dramatic men's and women's combined win over Australia at the last Oceania Championships in 1998; and more recently, wins by our under 18 boys and girls against state teams at the 1999 Australian Championships, hopes were high for this year's Oceania team events.

In a major disappointment, all four team finals (Open Men and Women, Under 20 Men and Women) resulted in wins to Australia. The NZ teams had done well in their build-up matches against the small island nations, comfortably beating teams from Niue, Tahiti, Kiribati and hosts New Caledonia – but couldn't match Australia in the finals. Happily, and with strong support from the team coaches, the players ensured this disappointment didn't blunt their confidence for the individual events. They proceeded to gather up 41 medals.



Joachim Kusche
327 Coldstream Rd, Rangiora 8254
Ph: 03-313 3449 Fax: 03-313 3412

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Oceania

Medal Winners All

The final medal tally for New Zealand players in individual events at the Oceania Championships was 41, with everybody winning at least one:

Gold medallists: **Li Chunli** (3), **Karen Li**, **Peter Jackson**, **Peter Craven**, **Yi-Sien Lin**; **Andy Huang**, **Adrian Soh**, **Nathan Lowe**, **Sandy Wang**

Silver medallists: **Shane Laugesen** (2), **Florence Li** (2), **Peter Jackson**, **Karen Li**, **Andy Huang**, **Sandy Wang**

Bronze medallists: **Florence Li** (3), **Andrew Hubbard** (2), **Deborah Morrison** (2), **Adrian Soh** (2), **Brock Barrie** (2), **Nathan Lowe** (2), **Sandy Wang** (2), **Karen Li**, **Aaron Winborn**, **Sarah Finch**, **Lisa Boaden**, **Peter Craven**, **Andy Huang**, **Eileen Schwab**.

In addition, everybody who played in team matches won a silver medal for coming second to Australia in the team events.

No medals for team managers and coaches (**James Morris**, **Murray Finch**, **Wayne Gear** and **Simeon Cairns**) but they all deserved one - not to mention **David Jackson** (working in the control room); **Averil Roberts** (International Umpire); **Hagen Bower**, supporting the team as a personal coach for Shane Laugesen, and **Dr Malcolm Lowe**, travelling as a supporter but available to the team to give medical advice.

It was a great team.



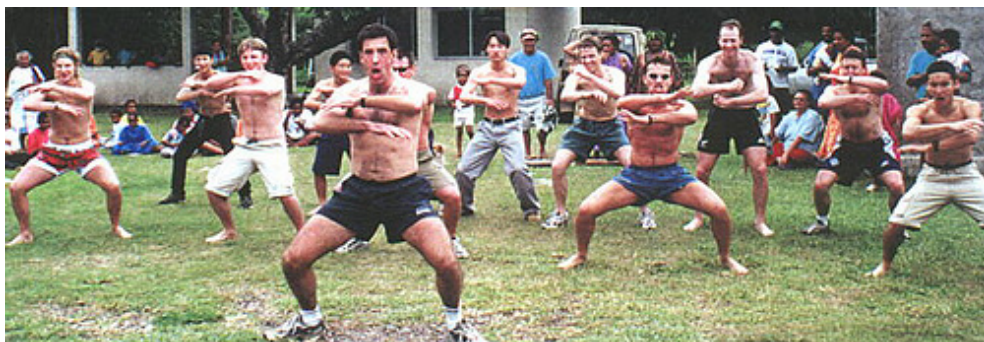
Andrew Hubbard
on the
presentation
podium after
reaching the
semi-final of the
Men's Singles.
(See story
opposite)

L/R – Australians Russell Lavale (R/U), Simon Gerada (Winner) and (Far right) Trevor Brown (3rd = with Andrew).

The 12 June Oceania Championships media release that Murray Finch carefully prepared in Koumac and overcame considerable communication difficulties to email to New Zealand caused confusion when the Press Association tagged it "Report on Oceania Tennis Championships". Some more knowledgeable sports editors corrected the error and changed it to table tennis, but the Wanganui Chronicle, Timaru Herald and Bay of Plenty Times were among the papers nationwide who reported that "New Zealand started the Oceania Tennis Championships in fine style in Koumac, New Caledonia...", and then proceeded to give names and individual results. We table tennis people knew what they were talking about but thousands of tennis enthusiasts must have scratched their heads.

New Zealand star Li Chunli was at the mercy of a card-wielding umpire during two of her finals at the Oceania Championships. On several occasions, after emitting a shout of delight on winning an important point or a good rally, she was chided for excessive noise. The yellow card was eventually presented, and when she won a crucial rally at 17-16 in the first game of her singles final, her celebration was rewarded with a red and yellow card. As this card combination costs the offending player a point, Chunli was not pleased. The referee was called but the decision stood. There was heated discussion with the umpire and referee after the match, which Chunli won in straight games (refer front page). The red/yellow carding decision caused controversy among spectators.

Simeon Cairns leads the Haka by the New Zealand players.



Young Players Triumph at Oceania's

Under 20, under 17 and under 14 events were played at the Oceania Championships in addition to the "glamour" open events. Competition was especially intense in the under 20's with the field including the open men's winner, Australia's Simon Gerada. Needless to say, Gerada won the men's singles but New Zealand's **Peter Craven** and **Yi-Sien Lin** triumphed in the doubles, beating the promising John Tawadrous and Craig Hayes (Aust) in the final.

In the other age groups **Nathan Lowe** and **Sandy Wang** both won gold medals in the under 14 singles (Sandy beat team mate **Florence Li** in the final), and **Adrian Soh** and **Andy Huang** won the Under 17 boys doubles. Andy also took the silver medal in the Under 17 boys singles and Sandy and Florence won silver in the Under 14 girls doubles. In addition, a large number of bronze medals were won by players reaching the semi-finals (see "Medal Winners All", page 3). Good performances all round.

SOUTH ISLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS - Timaru – June 2000

Open

Men's Singles
Women's Singles
Men's Doubles
Women's Doubles
Mixed Doubles

B Grade

Men's Singles
Women's Singles

C Grade

Men's Singles
Women's Singles

Over 60 years

Men's Singles
Women's Singles
Men's Doubles
Mixed Doubles

Over 50 years

Men's Singles
Women's Singles
Men's Doubles
Women's Doubles
Mixed Doubles

Over 40 years

Men's Singles
Women's Singles
Men's Doubles
Women's Doubles
Mixed Doubles

Over 35 years

Men's Singles
Women's Singles
Men's Doubles
Mixed Doubles

Under 21 years

Men's Singles
Women's Singles

Under 19 years

Boys' Singles
Girls' Singles
Boys' Doubles
Girls' Doubles
Mixed Doubles

Under 17 years

Boys' Singles
Girls' Singles
Boys' Doubles
Girls' Doubles
Mixed Doubles

Winner

Aaron Li (N)
Linda Chen (C)
A Li & Simon Wallace (N/C)
M Chang & L Chen (C)
A Li & M Chang (N/C)

Albert Yee (C)
Jiani Hu (N)

Karl Samson (C)
Andrea Gosney (C)

Eddie Moore (C)
Lindsay Van Hout (C)
K Armstrong & E Moore (C)
E Moore & J Prisk (C)

Stephen Craw (C)
Raina McKechnie (C)
S Craw & B Hurr (C/O)
B Adamson & N Garrett (S)
D Glass & R McKechnie (C)

Peter De Boer (C)
Lesley Gardner (C)
P De Boer & J Fogarty (C/O)
L Gardner & R McKechnie (C)
R Garrett & N Garrett (S)

Lyndon White (C)
Lesley Gardner (C)
W Stewart & L White (C)
L White & L Gardner (C)

Guy Yang Ying (O)
Samara Collins (O)

Guy Yang Ying (O)
Andrea Gosney (C)
J Cordue & A Hovey (W/WG)
C Dimmock & J Wood (NH/C)
P Stewart & A Gosney (C)

Guy Yang Ying (O)
Jacqui Wood (C)
K Samson & S Wallace (C)
A Gosney & S White (C)
K Samson & A Gosney (C)

Singles Runner Up

Guy Yang Ying (O)
Raina McKechnie (C)

Paul Stewart (C)
Meena Chang (C)

Tim Hanna (HV)
Meena Chang (C)

Denver Glass (C)
Brenda Adamson (S)

Colin Tipper (C)
Sherry Chang (C)

Stuart Wallace (C)
Raina McKechnie (C)

William Stewart (C)
Barbara Wilson (S)

Evan Kramer (W)
Claire Dimmock (NH)

John Cordue (W)
Jacqui Wood (C)

Simon Wallace (C)
Andrea Gosney (C)

more over page

Under 15 years

| | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Boys' Singles | Simon Wallace (C) | Binbin Zhu (HV) |
| Girls' Singles | Jiani Hu (N) | Leanne Ridder (S) |
| Boys' Doubles | J Chen & S Wallace (C) | |
| Girls' Doubles | J Hu & S White (N/C) | |
| Mixed Doubles | S Wallace & K Samson (C) | |

Under 13 years

| | | |
|----------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Boys' Singles | Binbin Zhu (HV) | Chris Erskine (N) |
| Girls' Singles | Jiani Hu (N) | Kelly Samson (C) |
| Boys' Doubles | C Erskine & J Wells (N) | |
| Mixed Doubles | B Zhu & J Hu (HV/N) | |

Report – SOUTH ISLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Barry Butler Stadium was the venue for the 2000 South Island Championships held in Timaru at Queens Birthday weekend.

Only a sprinkling of North Island players travelled south, a trend which is becoming common these days.

In the open events **Aaron Li** (Nelson) was untroubled in winning the singles, doubles and mixed doubles. **Guy Yang Ying**, the young import now in Otago showed his class in making the final. Guy is a brilliant player although concentration would not be his strong point at this stage.

The women's singles final was a one sided match with **Linda Chen** (Canterbury) beating an injured **Raina McKechnie** (Canterbury) who had earlier knocked out second seed **Samara Collins** (Otago) in four games.

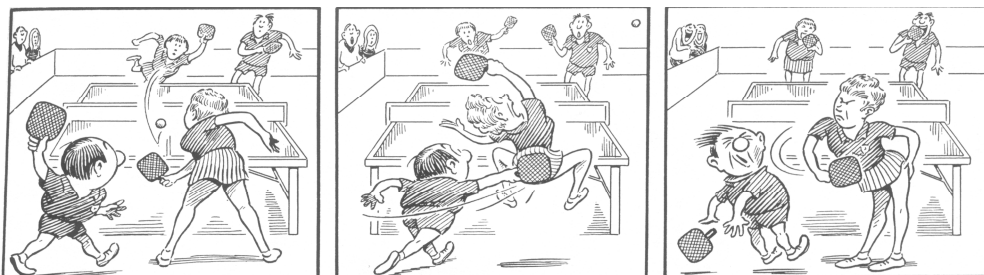
Many fine matches were played with a number of upsets in earlier rounds. In the under 15 boys singles unseeded **Binbin Zhu** (Hutt Valley) made the final by defeating second seed **Jonathon Chen** (Canterbury) in the second round, third seed **Anthony Wilson** (Southland) in the semi's before losing to **Simon Wallace** (Canterbury). Binbin had no trouble winning the under 13 singles. Watch this lad in future.

One of the great doubles finals was the under 17 event where **Simon Wallace** and **Karl Samson** (Canterbury) defeated **John Cordue** (Wellington) and **Andrew Hovey** (Wanganui) 15-21, 21-18, 21-19.

The championships were well run in a friendly manner by **Roger Bennett** and **Tracey O'Connell** – a great team.

Ron Garrett

(See also "Points to Ponder", opposite)



Three New International Umpires

John Stapleton (North Harbour), **David Jackson** (Auckland) and **Averil Roberts** (Hutt Valley) are now International Umpires.

They sat a 50 minute written examination early in the year and were advised by the International Table Tennis Federation in May that they had been successful. It's a difficult paper and it tests candidates in just about every imaginable area of international regulations (ball selection, advertising on clothing, what to do if the assistant umpire's nose bleeds!, etc, etc), as well as interpretation of the standard laws of the game in unusual situations (eg, a player loses balance, drops the bat and, while the ball is still in play, puts the hand that was holding the bat on the table to steady himself – does he lose the point?).

The three new international umpires are likely to be called on to apply their expertise as tournament referees and will be in obvious demand for any international matches played here.

Our existing team of umpires at this level includes **Michael McAvinue** (Manawatu), **David Cook** (Wairarapa) and **Keith Fraser** (Waikato), with Michael by far the most active internationally. Others well known some years ago but no longer active are George Wilkinson, Gary Farquhar and Tony Darroch.

Upsurge of interest in umpiring

The chairman of the Umpires Committee, Robert Dunn, reports that more provincial umpires papers are being distributed to potential candidates than ever before. Budding umpires have recently shown interest in Wanganui, Southland, and in particularly large numbers, Hawkes Bay and Manawatu.

Anyone seriously considering sitting the provincial examination should write to the Secretary, Table Tennis Umpires Committee, PO Box 7046, Palmerston North. As things stand at the moment, the provincial qualification (which also involves a practical and oral test), is the first step on the ladder ultimately leading to the international certificate.



Points to Ponder

- **Where have all the women and girls gone? What do associations do about it? If any association has the answer let everyone else know.**
- When two players make the semi-final of the men's singles yet are still eligible for the B grade I feel something is wrong. Looking at it the other way if everyone eligible (rated below 25) decided to only enter the B grade there would have been only three players in the open singles. I have never been a fan of B and C grade so I can be seen as biased but what does winning B or C grade mean? Is it there to give extra games for players? It would be interesting to hear the views of past winners. It seems to me it is to cater for players from 21 to 34 as everyone else gets the opportunity to play in junior and senior age groups so would get plenty of matches.

Perhaps we could get some comment for the next issue.

Ron Garrett,
TTNZ Liaison Officer, South Island Championships

Report on South Island Open opposite.

North Island Championships - Taupo – July 2000

| <u>Open</u> | <u>Winner</u> | <u>Singles Runner Up</u> |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Men's Singles | Shane Laugesen (A) | Andrew Hubbard (HV) |
| Women's Singles | Karen Li (MN) | Sarah Finch (A) |
| Men's Doubles | A Hubbard & A Winborn (HV/A) | |
| Women's Doubles | T Hefferan & K Li (NH/MN) | |
| Mixed Doubles | S Laugesen & T McLauchlan (A/HV) | |
| <u>B Grade</u> | | |
| Men's Singles | Adrian Soh (N) | Lyndon White (C) |
| Women's Singles | Sandy Wang (A) | Jennifer Hubbard (HV) |
| <u>C Grade</u> | | |
| Men's Singles | Allen Tsai (A) | Simon Watt (NH) |
| Women's Singles | Sandy Wang (A) | Andrea Gosney (C) |
| <u>Over 60 years</u> | | |
| Men's Singles | Chip Eade (WT) | Alan Tomlinson (A) |
| Women's Singles | Joyce Coleman (WK) | Annice Robottom (WG) |
| Men's Doubles | C Eade & A Tomlinson (WT/A) | |
| Women's Doubles | J Coleman & G Halford (WK/MN) | |
| Mixed Doubles | C Eade & J Coleman (WT/WK) | |
| <u>Over 50 years</u> | | |
| Men's Singles | Bob Lassen (A) | Pat Low (A) |
| Women's Singles | Christine Cunningham (NH) | Jill Murray (NH) |
| Men's Doubles | B Lassen & A Tomlinson (A/A) | |
| Women's Doubles | V Beaver & J Murray (NH/NH) | |
| Mixed Doubles | B Penberthy & V Beaver (A/NH) | |
| <u>Over 40 years</u> | | |
| Men's Singles | Bob Lassen (A) | Barry Wynks (MN) |
| Women's Singles | Christine Cunningham (NH) | Jill Murray (NH) |
| Men's Doubles | P Low & B Wynks (A/MN) | |
| Women's Doubles | V Beaver & A Roberts (NH/HV) | |
| Mixed Doubles | P Low & J Murray (A/NH) | |
| <u>Over 35 years</u> | | |
| Men's Singles | Lyndon White (C) | John Stapleton (NH) |
| Women's Singles | Raewyn Young (HV) | Sabine Westenra (HV) |
| Men's Doubles | L White & B Wynks (C/MN) | |
| Women's Doubles | H Codlin & R Young (HB/HV) | |
| Mixed Doubles | L White & S Westenra (C/HV) | |
| <u>Under 21 years</u> | | |
| Men's Singles | Peter Craven (NL) | Adrian Soh (N) |
| Women's Singles | Tracey McLauchlan (HV) | Anna Danby (A) |
| Men's Doubles | G Burton & P Craven (NH/NL) | |
| Women's Doubles | A Danby & T McLauchlan (A/HV) | |
| Mixed Doubles | P Craven & A Danby (NL/A) | |
| <u>Under 19 years</u> | | |
| Boys' Singles | Peter Craven (NL) | Paul Stewart (C) |
| Girls' Singles | Deborah Morrison (C) | Andrea Gosney (C) |
| Boys' Doubles | G Burton & P Craven (NH/NL) | |
| Girls' Doubles | A Gosney & D Morrison (C/C) | |
| Mixed Doubles | G Burton & A Thomson (NH/HV) | |

LI, LAUGESSEN DOMINATE NORTH ISLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

Karen Li (Manawatu) and **Shane Laugesen** (Auckland) left absolutely no doubt over who our leading New Zealand based players are as they dominated their respective singles events at the De Brett Hotel North Island Championships in Taupo on 7-9 July. Both looked particularly sharp after their recent exposure to international competition at the World Teams, Commonwealth and Oceania Championships.

Fellow internationals **Andrew Hubbard** (Hutt Valley) and **Aaron Winborn** (Auckland) took the men's doubles title; **Tanya Hefferan** (North Harbour) paired with **Li** to win the Women's, and the Mixed went to **Laugesen** and **Tracey McLauchlan** (Hutt Valley). The men's singles in particular produced spectacular table tennis with some of the top seeds being made to work hard in the quarter finals. **Hagen Bower** (A), **Wayne Gear** (A), **Adrian Soh** (Nelson), **Peter Craven** (Northland) and **Lyndon White** (Canterbury) all joined Laugesen, Winborn and Hubbard in the last eight resulting in Winborn/Laugesen and Bower/Hubbard semi-finals. Hubbard took the men's silver medal and **Sarah Finch** the women's.

As is often the case, junior players proved the most unpredictable: three unseeded players, **Rhys Van Stipriaan** (NH), **Chris Erskine** (Nelson) and **Billy Lam** (A), all reached the Under 13 boys semi-finals; unseeded pairs won the Under 15 and Under 19 Mixed doubles (**Yiching Yuen** and **Sarah Ho**, Waikato, and **Greg Burton** and **Alison Thomson**, NH/HV); the unseeded Wairarapa pair of **Adam Ryland** and **James Silverwood** won the Under 15 boys doubles; **Sandy Wang** (A), aged 12, won both the women's B and C Grade; and Wellington's **Sam Allan**, 15, proved a more than valuable doubles replacement for Andy Huang who withdrew to meet table tennis commitments in Australia. Allan combined with **Adrian Soh** to win the Under 17 Doubles and reach the Under 19 doubles final.

Fifty four events in all were contested in graded and age-group categories and the entry was the largest for seven years, putting pressure on Taupo's dedicated band of organisers who were hosting the event for the first time. They responded well and are keen to conduct more major events in the future.

see also "Players Collared" page 25

| <u>Under 17 years</u> | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Boys' Singles | Adrian Soh (N) | John Cordue (W) |
| Girls' Singles | Andrea Gosney (C) | Eileen Schwab (NH) |
| Boys' Doubles | S Allan & A Soh (W/N) | |
| Girls' Doubles | F Li & S Wang (A/A) | |
| Mixed Doubles | A Soh & S Wang (N/A) | |
| <u>Under 15 years</u> | | |
| Boys' Singles | Josh Alexandre (A) | Nathan Lowe (A) |
| Girls' Singles | Sandy Wang (A) | Florence Li (A) |
| Boys' Doubles | A Ryland & J Silverwood (WR/WR) | |
| Girls' Doubles | F Li & S Wang (A/A) | |
| Mixed Doubles | Y Yuen & S Ho (WK/WK) | |
| <u>Under 13 years</u> | | |
| Boys' Singles | Nathan Lowe (A) | Rhys Van Stipriaan (NH) |
| Girls' Singles | Katie Stretton (NH) | Hanna Squire (HV) |
| Boys' Doubles | N Lowe & R Van Stipriaan (A/NH) | |
| Girls' Doubles | H Squire & K Stretton (HV/NH) | |
| Mixed Doubles | B Barrie & K Stretton (NH/NH) | |

Aaron Winborn writes:

My trip to New Caledonia was a good experience – interacting with some of the Island countries and finding out a bit on their culture and beliefs. One of my highlights was a beautiful lunch prepared by the native Koumac people, with a cultural exchange of blessings. The food was cooked in the ground on hot stones and wrapped in banana leaves. Before our NZ crew of boys left, we performed a full vocal haka (shirts off of course) which I'm sure they really appreciated.

The Oceanias for me now is very limited as it is really only NZ and Australia fighting for that No 1 spot and the other countries well off the pace. But I do believe it is good for table tennis in general and the interaction of players with the Island countries participating is a positive note.

The trip was the first for me with juniors and seniors together. I think it is a good idea to have them together so the juniors can look and learn from the seniors and strive to be the player they want.

On the whole it was a great trip and I really enjoyed it.

Nathan Lowe writes:

The weather in New Caledonia was sunny but not too hot. The coaches helped us a lot with our table tennis skills and provided a lot of encouragement and support during matches. They were very friendly even though I did not know them before the trip. I have got to know more people and it has been a good experience for me.

Those Membership Numbers

Just as it's become more and more necessary to remember your vast array of pin numbers in these days of high technology, it's also become more and more necessary to remember your TTNZ membership number. That number is now an essential requirement for the processing of your entry into national tournaments, and in the future you'll have to quote it more and more often to enter even local tournaments.

People handling entries to major tournaments are not impressed with blank spaces on entry forms where the membership number should be, and even less impressed with things like "??", or "No idea" or "Haven't a clue", or "Forgotten it".

Please !!! Learn your membership number. If you've lost your card or your letter advising you of it, have a look at the envelope this magazine came in. It's there, printed on your address label in the top right corner. If you've already thrown the envelope away (and it's odds on that you have), then there's always the next issue. And your Association Secretary has an alphabetical list of all members' numbers in your area.

The day isn't too far away when your entry form might just arrive back in your mailbox if it's not filled in properly, and that means **including** the membership number.

MAKE YOUR OWN TABLE

For the Do-It-Yourself person, the school woodwork teacher, or the plain adventurous, here's a recipe for making your own table. The instructions, contributed by **Merv Allardyce**, relate to a Kiwi Table – the specially modified version for children aged 9 – 13. By adjusting the dimensions to 2740 mm x 1525 mm, 760 mm above the floor, the same procedure can be followed to make a full-size table.

Material

1 sheet MDF (Customwood) 2400mm x 1200mm x 18mm. Recommend that it be cut in two pieces for ease of handling and to accommodate alternative net.

Colour

Blue. The colour is within the British Standards colour range 5252 and the actual colour code is 20 E 56. Recommend that an acrylic exterior matt paint be used with a roller.

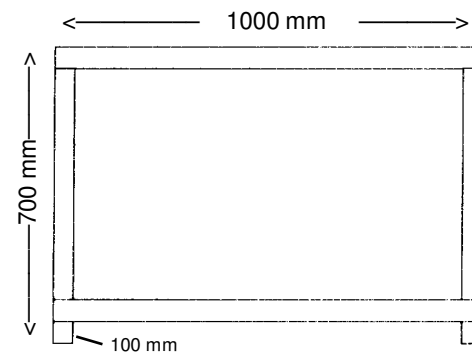
Painting

Prime/undercoat both sides and edges of the table to prevent warping. Apply 2 coats of blue on top and edges with roller. When dry, mask sides and ends of table top with masking tape and newspaper 20mm from the edge. Can be painted or, better still, lightly sprayed with white matt paint (an aerosol can is ideal). Remove masking tape and when dry mask out centre line 3mm wide down centre of table. Lightly spray with white paint.

Provided the table can be placed on something to set it at about hip-height for the players, it is now ready for use with a shortened net. In schools, it could be placed on desks and when not in use the reverse side of each half used as a notice board. But those wishing to make a complete unit with trestles, supporting beams between the trestles and table (runners), and an alternative net, read on...

Trestles

These should be adjustable to enable height of table to be varied from about 610mm to standard height of 760mm. Two trestles are required per table and they can be cut out of builders ply or 75mm x 25mm timber. The diagram sets out the measurements of one half of a trestle. It is recommended that they be glued as well as screwed. Two halves are hinged (use 3 or 4 inch butt hinges) at each end of the tops of the trestles. Drill a hole in each of the lower cross members 150mm from each end. A length of rope is threaded through opposite holes and by lengthening or shortening the rope the table height can be adjusted. The table sits on two wooden 'runners' (2000mm x 75mm x 50mm), or something similar of other material, which are first placed on top of the trestles.



Net

A standard net can be shortened or it may be replaced by a 'net' made from a piece of hardboard or similar material (stiff plastic is ideal), 1400mm x 168mm. A baton 25mm x 25mm is screwed on either side so that a lip of 18mm is below the batons. This lip is placed between the two halves of the table. Paint the net a bright colour such as yellow to complete an attractive looking unit.

Table Tennis Canterbury Is Forging Ahead

By Ron Fleming

Table Tennis is making a big impact here in Canterbury and not totally due to the new stadium, although having a great facility on a major arterial road with good signage and up to 30,000 vehicle movements past the door each day is a big help. I have said right from the start that it is no use going into a new stadium without a development plan. With the assistance of Sport Canterbury a Stadium Project Plan has been developed and a Finance Projection Plan is under way.

Thousands of advertising pamphlets for distribution have been printed as well as information flyers.

Table Tennis Canterbury has purchased 1,800 table tennis bats in an arrangement with Stiga and many of these have been presented to schools, clubs and other organisations that have a need. Television and other media have publicised this project.

The "Bat Giveaway" has proved to be a great catalyst to open doors to schools even as far away as South Westland. Schools are bringing bus-loads of children to the stadium for play and coaching. Many require more tables and at Burnside High (roll 1,300) students are queuing up to play. Aaron Li has been giving demonstrations and coaching at several schools but there is such a demand for coaching that we have to look at using several more coaches.

The Mid Week social play group has increased to the stage that on a recent Thursday morning over 80 players were present. These players can play from 9 am until noon or later for a fee of only \$3, which includes morning tea and a draw for Spot Prizes.

The Winter Interclub competition has a total of 64 teams - a number that has not been seen for many years.

With further promotions planned, new tables on the way, the official announcement of a new Table Tennis Academy and the awarding of five scholarships at Lincoln University, plus a visit by juniors from China, things are looking really rosy in Canterbury.



The **BUTTERFLY** ball has been adopted as the approved ball for the years 2000 and 2001 by Table Tennis New Zealand.

H.B. Sports the agents for Butterfly also have Training Balls available.

A new rubber – SRIVER EL, the new improved version of Sriver is due out.



H.B. SPORTS P O Box 79220 Royal Heights Auckland Ph 09-8336502

Juniors Booming in Lower North Island

By Greg Smith

A junior development tournament was held at Empire Stadium (Hutt Valley) in early June. Incredibly, 69 juniors attended. This figure reflects the work put in by junior development officers in the region. Hawkes Bay and Manawatu Associations made substantial contributions to the number of participants, with Manawatu sending half a dozen young juniors, and Hawkes Bay doubling that figure. The remaining forty or so were all local with the exception of a four-strong contingent from Wairarapa.

The groups from Hawkes Bay and Manawatu are indicative of a large revitalisation of table tennis in these areas. Talking with many of these juniors makes it clear that **Andrew Gordon** and **Karen Li** spend much of their time caring for and developing the Manawatu juniors, while **Helen Codlin** is largely responsible for the growing numbers in Hawkes Bay. All of the juniors from these two places were dressed in their association colours and were extremely well-disciplined. It is a credit to these administrators that their talented juniors are showing promise at the table, and perhaps more importantly, showing a very high level of sportsmanship. The concept of fair play was second nature to them all.

From a local perspective, the increase in junior participation in the Hutt Valley is due to a rigorous junior development programme implemented by **Alan Costley** and **Richard Lee**. Both have worked tirelessly, visiting almost all the local secondary and primary schools and promoting the game strongly. Behind the scenes they have also spent hours of their personal time planning coaching timetables, junior tournaments, and catering for all the juniors' needs. Supported also by other Hutt Valley executive members, the coaching programme has seen junior clubs in the area grow rapidly. Junior club night attendance at all four major Hutt Valley clubs is rarely below 30. The junior area, once dominated by Empire and Waterloo clubs, has now also become the pride of Moonshine and Belmont (who recently had 45 juniors packing a six table hall). The efforts of **Tracey McLauchlan** and **Brian Pearson** have not gone unnoticed and they too deserve a lot of credit. With more than 130 juniors playing at clubs (many separate from the massive schools competition currently operating), table tennis is thriving in the region, almost beyond control.

Reverting to the junior development tournament, the out of town players dominated the male events. **Blair Patterson** from Manawatu took out the Under 12s, while **Craig Lawrence** and **Camus Wyatt** (both Wairarapa) won the Under 14s and 16s respectively. The tournament seemed to be enjoyed by all, and ran smoothly thanks to the administrators already mentioned as well as **Dick Lynn** and **Wanda Johnston**. This competition provides evidence that there is still hope for table tennis in New Zealand, and also proves that hard-working administrators around the region are now being rewarded for their efforts.



Whoops! In our last issue we said that Kath Anderson was a "Bat person" at the Wheelchair Games in Christchurch. Now that was not nice – she was a **Ball person**.

We did not intend to refer to anyone as a "Bat". Thanks for your contributions Kath.

For Sale

*Stiga Expert VM blue Table
Tennis Tables with nets*

Good condition \$450.00

James Morris, ph / fax 09 433 8565

New Canterbury Stadium

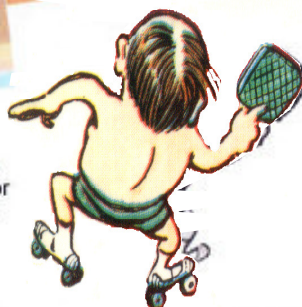
This is what will greet entrants to the **New Zealand Table Tennis Championships** when they arrive to do battle.

Hosting the event in Christchurch at Table Tennis Canterbury's new stadium, the organisers expect a great entry and a great championships after all the hard work that has been done to create the facility out of a former warehouse. Newly painted inside, a new wooden floor, adjacent carparking, accommodation and dining nearby - the conditions look superb for the first New Zealand Open of the millennium.



The stadium boasts a cushioned 1300 sq m wooden floor with room for four international-sized courts or 12 national sized courts plus spectators, although up to 22 tables can be accommodated. Other facilities include a cafeteria, showers, changing rooms, meeting rooms and a tournament control room.

To convert the stadium from a warehouse, a builder was employed to construct a storage area and wall panels but considerable work was carried out by volunteers in this \$900,000 project. Three association stalwarts, Keith Armstrong, Eddie Moore and Ron Fleming, (rumoured to all be 68 year olds!) have often worked seven days a week to get the new headquarters shipshape.



"We now have room for everyone who wants to play" says Chairperson Ron Fleming.

Every Tuesday and Thursday social leagues are conducted when people come along for a morning of table tennis.

Interclub competitions operate on Wednesday and Thursday evenings. The stadium is available on a table hire basis throughout the week.

There is a variety of coaching available, from top-level training to basic skill building. The current New Zealand Champion, Aaron Li, plays at the stadium and is available for coaching.

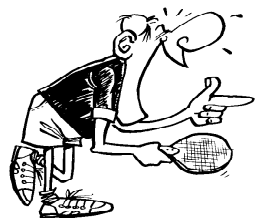
Everyone is welcome and bats and balls can be provided for people who simply walk in off the street to have a go.

See also "Table Tennis Canterbury is Forging Ahead" - page 12

Making Table Tennis Funny!

By John Kiley

ball
that



Early days

Exhibition table tennis has a long history in New Zealand. Former world men's champion Fred Perry set the showtime rolling when he and fellow Englishman Frank Wilde performed in Wellington in 1933. It was a one-off, and an absolute treat for the lucky audience. But it wasn't till 1937 exhibition players actually toured the country. Hungarians Miklos Szabados (also a former world champion) and Istvan Kelen were the first. Fresh from a record-breaking tour of

Australia (where one performance in Victoria drew a crowd of 5000), they toured New Zealand for three weeks. The Dominion newspaper reported that the huge crowd in the Wellington Town Hall "applauded with wild enthusiasm in the midst of thrilling rallies while the ball travelled back and forth so fast from severe forehand drives or backhand flicks as scarcely to be seen, or was returned by wonderful recoveries."

In later years there were exhibitions by Viktor Barna, Lazlo Bellak, Richard Bergmann, Johnny Leach, and English twins Diane and Rosalind Rowe. All were world title holders, or at least world finalists. Exhibition players in these early days didn't need to be funny to be entertaining – they only needed to be good – *very good*. World-class players counter-hitting and playing defensive shots from impossible distances was enough to attract people in droves. The Dunedin performance by Barna and Bergmann in 1949 pulled in a crowd of 1100.

It got better. Every table tennis enthusiast (who's old enough) will remember 1957 - the year when the two best players in the world, Toshiaki Tanaka and Ichiro Ogimura, toured New Zealand and gave more than forty performances. They had won the previous four world championships between them and people in every corner of the country, unfamiliar with the Japanese pengrip, were floored by the sheer quality of their play. Crowds were roaring with either excitement or laughter (often both) every time a player disappeared off the stage into the wings to play a defensive shot, floating the ball back through the scenery to land miraculously back on the table.

1970: a fresh impetus

Tours by women's world champions Kazuko Yamaizumi and Kimiyo Matsuzaki (Japan) and Englishmen Denis Neale and Stuart Gibbs keep the exhibition fans happy between 1958 and 1969. Then in 1970 there was a giant leap forward with the arrival of world men's doubles champions Kjell Johansson and Hans Alser. While in earlier decades Bellak had demonstrated a stylish ability to juggle bat and ball, and Bergmann had varied his performance by producing an impressive array of trick shots and by inviting audience members to step forward and challenge him while he sat comfortably in a chair behind the table, the Swedish pair in 1970 took humour and variety to a new level. They performed acrobatic feats such as hurdling the barricades; retrieving drop-shots by jumping onto the table or diving under it; shouted witty comments during a rally; "bribed" the umpire – all this in



**Viktor Barna in
1949 during his
NZ tour**

in addition to their world class "normal" play. They played five centres in New Zealand with the Auckland performance telecast live. The public reception was rapturous. This was taking table tennis to its dizzy limits as far as sheer entertainment was concerned.

Could anyone out-perform the Swedes ? The Chinese gave it their best shot in 1972. There was huge public interest in this politically ground-breaking tour; doubles exhibition matches were included and anybody watching these world-class players demonstrating their skills on live prime-time television could not help but be impressed.

Is this really possible ??

Exhibition players performing in New Zealand have:

- *Run up to the table at full speed to retrieve a drop shot; dived under the table; come out at the other end and continued the rally with an opponent who, seeing what was happening, had also changed ends*
- *Sat down among the audience behind the barricades (eight metres from the table) and continued rallying, conversing with audience members between shots*
- *Juggled bats during a rally*
- *Sent their bat flying through the air after a follow-through and continued the rally by removing a shoe and playing with that*
- *Rallied at top speed on the stage in a movie theatre with both players in the wings and out of sight.*

The funny men arrive

The 70's saw teams from Hong Kong, Japan, Czechoslovakia and in 1975, the specialist French pair of Jaques Secretin and Vincent Purkart. This pair took the humour that Barna, Bergmann, Johansson and Alser had merely nibbled at - and made a meal of it. Their act had evolved over a number of years touring throughout France and later, when finely tuned, to other parts of the world. Unlike the previous much shorter exhibitions, this occupied 45 minutes. Both were good players (Secretin No 14 in the world) and their play left no doubt about that. But the strength of their show was the humour. Purkart had a exquisite sense of comic timing and made great use of his bagful of trick and novelty bats. He had them of every conceivable size and shape; bats that stuck to the ball; bats that sent it at right angles; one that expanded into a butterfly net at the twist of the handle (useful for balls hard to reach) - all this on top of the same acrobatic antics that Alser and Johansson had demonstrated. Their quick-witted umpire also added to the fun. It was the Secretin/Purkart formula that was adopted, and improved on, a decade later by Pansky and Orlowski.

Back to sheer table tennis brilliance

A younger group of Chinese stars visited in 1980, and 1989 saw a demonstration visit to nine Associations by Guo Yuehua, world champion in 1981 and 1983 and probably the best table tennis player ever to play here. He was brought over simply to show how good table tennis players can get – and he did that admirably.

More over page



Making Table Tennis Funny!

Continued from page 17

21st century

Back in Europe Jindrich Pansky and Milan Orlowski (former European champions from the Czech Republic) had, by the late 1990's, been full-time professional exhibitionists for 12 years, performing throughout Europe and, more recently, well beyond. In April this year they paid their first visit to New Zealand. In terms of showmanship they out-did every previous touring exhibition.

Their repertoire includes sitting among the audience while playing; rallying with three balls at once; rallying with "hands free" bats attached to their waistbands; producing bats from a bag that Purkart would have killed for; lying, sitting or standing on the table during rallies; cartwheeling across the floor between shots, and leaving their audiences wondering whether there was anything new left for future exhibitionists to do.

Nearly seven decades of fun

The last 67 years have proved that exhibition table tennis can be great entertainment - enjoyed by table tennis enthusiasts and the general public alike. The enthusiast can appreciate the subtleties, such as the pinpoint accuracy needed by an attacking player to hit to an opponent sitting in a chair in the audience; the general public can enjoy table tennis skills they never knew existed; and both can equally enjoy the sheer fun of it all.

What the next generation of exhibitionists might have in store for us, only time will tell.



(We hope to include an article on exhibition table tennis presented by New Zealanders in a future issue)

See also:

Hosting the Pansky/Orlowski Exhibition (opp page)
Umpiring an Exhibition Match (Page 21)



RON MENCHI CALLS IT QUILTS

A long and notable table tennis career at national management level has just ended for **Ron Menchi**.

Some of the highlights:

1965: Elected to NZTTA Executive Committee

1972 – 1981: Convenor of National Selection Panel

1982 – 1993: Chairman of NZTTA Executive Committee

1992: Elected Life Member of TTNZ (now one of only six Life Members)

1996 - 1999: Member of Appointments Committee, to consider applications and appointments to Board

1996- 2000: Member of Technical Committee, advising Board on technical issues.

He was a high profile and exceedingly active worker at national level throughout his long period of service. As well as his ten year spell as Convenor of Selectors his many other appointments included Convenor of the Ranking and Seeding Sub-Committee.

Ron started playing table tennis in 1948 at his church's youth group. In 1950 he joined the Empire Club, Petone, beginning an association he continues to this day. He played a prominent role in the club acquiring it's own building in 1962, largely funding the project with interest free finance. In 1964 he enjoyed one of his table tennis highlights when the Empire Club conferred Life Membership on him. He served as Club Captain for close to 30 years and in 1971 instituted the club's Friday Junior Club where he still coaches regularly.

Thinking it time to take things easier, Ron will watch developments at local and National level with great interest.

HOSTING THE PANSKY/ORLOWSKI EXHIBITION

Despite the promise of a great show, most district Associations in New Zealand were reluctant to host the visiting Czech exhibition players. They were discouraged by the high cost (US\$1500 plus accommodation and meals for the two players and manager), and by the need to commit a large amount of time to organising and promoting the event. Only three Associations, Northland, Canterbury and Southland, grasped the opportunity.

All three reported that the show was tremendous – the wide-eyed audiences had never seen anything quite like it before (see "Making Table Tennis Funny"). Local players were also involved, playing matches against the visitors before the exhibition display.

Northland added the extra touch of a tantalisingly imaginative opening with the lights turned off and two local players gliding to the table dressed in black, with white gloves, white shoes, and illuminated eyes.



They began to play in the dark hall with only their hands, feet, eyes, the ball and the table edges visible - glowing purple in the ultra-violet light. Throughout the country less than 550 people saw the Pansky/Orlowski exhibition. Those people were the only winners. Southland and Canterbury lost money; the touring players and their manager lost money; Northland broke even thanks to sponsorship support and pulling the best crowd but it begs the question – why didn't more people come? 1100 stomped and cheered in Dunedin in 1949 (See "Making Table Tennis Funny"). What's changed? Simple. In those early days it was a novelty. These days television feeds us to saturation point with spectacular, extreme, and sometimes outright dangerous sporting action. With people subjected to that kind of diet, getting them to the local stadium for a table tennis exhibition is a big ask. But Northland showed the way. With a local sponsor and free promotional backing from a radio station they proved it can be done.

The show is *brilliant*; and Pansky and Orlowski want to return next year.

Associations, Clubs – any group that has access to a venue - are invited to write to Table Tennis New Zealand, PO Box 867, Wellington, to express interest in hosting this table tennis exhibition some time next year.

Men's Open

1. Aaron Li
2. Peter Jackson
3. Shane Laugesen
4. Andrew Hubbard
5. Hagen Bower
6. Aaron Winborn
7. Sean Chen
8. Peter Craven
9. David Jackson

Top 10 Ratings

As at: 11 July 2000
Includes North Island Open

Men's Under 21

1. Peter Craven
2. Chen Lei
3. Adrian Soh
4. Yang Ying
5. Paul Innes
6. Shane Warbrooke
7. Yi-Sien Lin
8. Paul Stewart
9. Andy Huang
10. Stephen Hirst

Men's Over 50

1. Bob Lassen
2. Nam Hang Lee
3. Doug Pattinson
4. William Weinstock
5. Alan Alabaster
6. Pat Low
7. Chip Eade
8. Alan Tomlinson
9. Stephen Craw
10. Chris Williams

Boys Under 19

1. Peter Craven
2. Adrian Soh
3. Yang Ying
4. Yi-Sien Lin
5. Paul Stewart
6. Andy Huang
7. Simon Wallace
8. Oscar Elwell
9. Evan Kramer
10. John Cordue

Women's Under 21

1. Tracey McLauchlan
2. Anna Danby
3. Samara Collins
4. Amber Johnson
5. Sandy Wang
6. Rachel Griffiths
7. Tamsyn Burgess
8. Jiani Hu
9. Deborah Morrison
10. Jenny Brewerton

Women's Over 50

1. Val Beaver
2. Chris. Cunningham
3. Jill Murray
4. Anne McLean
5. Valerie Scarr
6. Lynley Barker
7. Sue Shirriffs
8. Averil Roberts
9. Pat McArthur
10. Joyce Coleman

Girls Under 19

1. Sandy Wang
2. Rachel Griffiths
3. Jiani Hu
4. Deborah Morrison
5. Jenny Brewerton
6. Lisa Boaden
7. Andrea Gosney
8. Alison Thomson
9. Meena Chang
10. Claire Dimmock

Men's Over 40

1. Sean Chen
2. David Jackson
3. Malcolm Darroch
4. Bob Lassen
5. Nam Hang Lee
6. Geoff Rau
7. Kevin Barry
8. Doug Pattinson
9. Maurice Burrowes
10. William Weinstock

Men's Over 60

1. Nam Hang Lee
2. Alan Alabaster
3. Chip Eade
4. Alan Tomlinson
5. Colin Tipper
6. John Lelliott
7. Man Tin Lee
8. Terry Cockfield
9. Bill Otene
10. Norm Parsons

Boys Under 17

1. Adrian Soh
2. Yang Ying
3. Andy Huang
4. Simon Wallace
5. Oscar Elwell
6. Evan Kramer
7. John Cordue
8. Karl Samson
9. Josh Alexandre
10. Allen Tsai

Women's Open

1. Li Chunli
2. Karen Li
3. Sarah Finch
4. Maxine Goldie
5. Debbie Garrett
6. Hilary Low
7. Val Beaver
8. Sabine Westenra
9. Tracey McLauchlan
10. Chris. Cunningham

Women's Over 40

1. Val Beaver
2. Chris. Cunningham
3. Yvonne Fogarty
4. Jill Murray
5. Ulrike Kusche
6. Anne McLean
7. Valerie Scarr
8. Lynley Barker
9. Sue Shirriffs
10. Averil Roberts

Women's Over 60

1. Pat McArthur
2. Joyce Coleman
3. Jeanette Wharehoka
4. Gladys Halford
5. Annice Robottom
6. Margaret McGregor
7. Margurette Green
8. Elsie Spooner
9. Phyllis Hoete
10. Pamela Keene

Girls Under 17

1. Sandy Wang
2. Jiani Hu
3. Andrea Gosney
4. Eileen Schwab
5. Francesca Collins
6. Florence Li
7. Jacqui Wood
8. Sarah Ho
9. Laura-Jane Young
10. Sacha Welsh

Boys Under 15

1. Andy Huang
2. Simon Wallace
3. Josh Alexandre
4. Nathan Lowe
5. Anthony Wilson
6. Scott Ridder
7. Jonathan Chen
8. Binbin Zhu
9. Hadleigh Bunce
10. Jack Wells

Girls Under 15

1. Sandy Wang
2. Jiani Hu
3. Eileen Schwab
4. Florence Li
5. Sarah Ho
6. Kelly Samson
7. Jennifer Lo
8. Leanne Ridder
9. Sophie Shu
10. Katie Stretton

Boys Under 13

1. Nathan Lowe
2. Binbin Zhu
3. Jack Wells
4. Chris Erskine
5. Rhys Van Stipriaan
6. Billy Lam
7. James Silverwood
8. Brock Barrie
9. Brodi Smith
10. Geoffrey Smart

Girls Under 13

1. Sandy Wang
2. Jiani Hu
3. Kelly Samson
4. Sophie Shu
5. Katie Stretton
6. Katrina Banks
7. Hanna Squire
8. Rebecca Bourke
9. Sarah Gregorius
10. Natasha Kok

Umpiring An Exhibition Match

While specialist exhibition players usually brought their own umpire, who effectively became part of the act ("You'll be yellow-carded next time you serve more than three balls at once !!!"), other touring teams required New Zealanders to control (or attempt to control) their exhibition match. One NZ International Umpire (the late Keith Pointon) told the story of how he was umpiring an exhibition doubles match featuring Chinese players and he became aware that the pair on his right was not the pair that had started the match. They had switched during a melee when both original players were scrambling to play defensive shots near the team bench. Keith wondered whether the audience ever realised what had happened. "Perhaps I should have taken their score back to zero", he said.

Special Sports Award to Canterbury.

At the recent Sport Canterbury Summer Sports Awards dinner, the Canterbury Association won one of two "Special Awards".

The plaque reads "Special Award to Canterbury table tennis in recognition of Outstanding Developments within the sport of Table Tennis – 2000".

Eddie Moore, at the same dinner, received an award for his contribution to the sport as a volunteer.

Local TT Star Goes Head to Head with Jonah

12 year old Binbin Zhu of Lower Hutt recently shared the main sports page of the local "Hutt News" with world rugby megastar Jonah Lomu. Binbin's story included a close-up photograph; Jonah's featured a picture of him being bundled into touch by the fullback in a club match.



Binbin got his name in the double-column headline; Jonah didn't. Binbin's article dealt with his rapid improvement over summer, his six-hours a day training schedule in the holidays, and his dream of becoming NZ Champion; Jonah's focussed on his duty managing the team jugs back in the clubrooms. And since the article was published, Binbin has fully justified his high-profile media coverage by winning the South Island Under 13 singles and mixed doubles; and finishing runner-up in the Under 15 singles after beating the second and third seeds.

VETERAN CHAMPIONSHIPS - Palmerston North – April 2000

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <u>Over 40 years</u> | <u>Winner</u> | <u>Singles Runner Up</u> |
| Men's Singles | Thomas Samuelsson (Aust) | Ken Cole (Aust) |
| Women's Singles | Anne McLean (A) | Valerie Scarr (MN) |
| Men's Doubles | K Fogarty & D Pattinson (A) | |
| Women's Doubles | S Shirriffs & L Wynks (MN) | |
| Mixed Doubles | B Wynks & A Roberts (MN/HV) | |
| <u>Over 50 years</u> | | |
| Men's Singles | Thomas Samuelsson (Aust) | Ken Cole (Aust) |
| Women's Singles | Anne McLean (A) | Val Beaver (NH) |
| Men's Doubles | B Lassen & D Pattinson (A) | |
| Women's Doubles | C Cunningham & A McLean (NH/A) | |
| Mixed Doubles | T Samuelsson & V Beaver (Aust/NH) | |
| <u>Over 60 years</u> | | |
| Men's Singles | Nam Hang Lee (A) | Case De Bondt (Aust) |
| Women's Singles | Carol Hughes (Aust) | Beryl Davies (Aust) |
| Men's Doubles | C Eade & N Lee (WT/A) | |
| Women's Doubles | B Davies & C Hughes (Aust) | |
| Mixed Doubles | C Tipper & A Robottom (C/WG) | |
| <u>Over 65 years</u> | | |
| Men's Singles | Geoffrey Nesbitt (Aust) | Eddie Moore (C) |
| Women's Singles | Annice Robottom (WG) | Margaret McGregor (WT) |
| Men's Doubles | B Halpin & E Moore (C) | |
| Women's Doubles | B Meads & A Robottom (WG) | |
| Mixed Doubles | G Nesbitt & A Robottom (Aust/WG) | |
| <u>Over 70 years</u> | | |
| Men's Singles | David Sherman (Aust) | Ron Lynch (Aust) |
| Women's Singles | Joyce Woodward (Aust) | Pam McAllister (MN) |
| Men's Doubles | R Lynch & D Sherman (Aust) | |
| Women's Doubles | E Spooner & J Woodward (WG/Aust) | |
| Mixed Doubles | L Calder & J Woodward (NL/Aust) | |
| <u>Over 75 years</u> | not held | |

TTNZ Technical Committee

This committee has a vacancy and TTNZ is seeking applications.

The committee is responsible for making recommendations to the Board on issues such as national tournament allocation, formulating regulations for national tournaments, ranking and seeding, ball adoption, and any other matters relating to the technical, rather than the administrative, side of table tennis. The position is voluntary and the successful applicant must be contactable by email.

David Jackson is the Convenor and Mr Bob Hurr has recently been appointed to the committee.

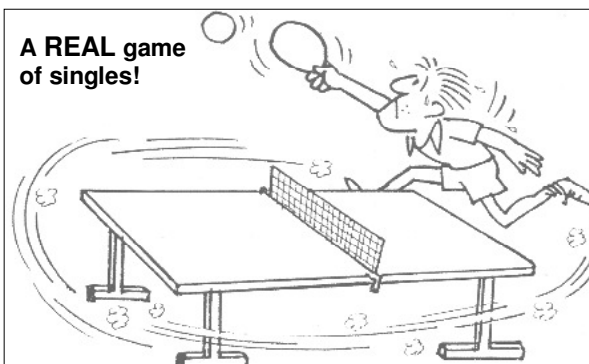
Applications, with full contact details and a summary of the applicant's experience, should be sent to **Table Tennis New Zealand, PO Box 867, Wellington.**

Veterans Championships

There seemed an element of relief among some oldies that we had survived yet another year and it was great to gather, compete and socialize in the special atmosphere that makes up this tournament.

The Championships were held in Palmerston North and conditions were excellent with new Butterfly tables, good floor and lighting. The tone of the proceedings was very much assisted by the friendly attitude of the tournament officials. Tournament Secretary **Shona Cudby**, Tournament Manager **Andrew Gordon** and his assistant, **Murray Holdaway** were always patient and handled their tasks with a calm approach that avoided any confrontations.

A welcoming reception was held at the Sherwood Motor Inn and to kick the competition off a *hard bat shoot-out* was held with some hilarious results. Really funny to see exaggerated loop drives hit the bottom of the net. The winner of the shoot-out was **David Scott** (North Harbour).



My players of the tournament:
Thomas Samuelsson (Australia)
and **Anne McLean** (Auckland)

Ron Menchi

Worry

Worry is the misuse of imagination.

Something special for the older lot!

The North Harbour "**Over 40 social teams day**" was held on March 23rd and attracted 72 players from Whangarei, Mangawhai, Waikato, Hibiscus Coast and North Harbour. Laurie Calder even brought a team down from the Bay of Islands.

The event was opened by councillor Margaret Miles on behalf of the Hillary Commission's Push Play programme. TV weather man Jim Hickey then played a celebrity match.

Teams consisted of 4 players and all the matches were doubles. Winner of the A section was Alan Ward's Waikato team while Len Osbourne's local North Harbour team won the B section. Hibiscus Village was the top Retirement Village team.

Certainly a fun day and a good way of promoting your day club. Other associations should try it. Just get a list of all possible veteran groups from your Regional Sports Trust and promote the event through your current members.

John Stapleton

Lesson on Communication

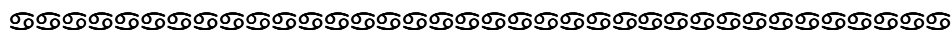
Hawkes Bay

A recent newsletter distributed by Hawkes Bay coaching co-ordinators **Helen Codlin, Shah Benjamin** and **Maureen Slater** to the 20 selected members of their junior coaching squad is a good model for others to follow when communicating with young players and their parents.

It includes:

- What the squad will be taught
- Where the coaching will be held
- Who to ring if you have a good reason for not attending
- Squad rules
- List of dates for coaching nights, open tournaments, parents meeting
- Duty rosters
- Basic rules of table tennis
- Etiquette (eg, thank the umpire after a match)
- Names, addresses and telephone numbers of all other squad members, their squad, age-group and parents names
- School competition details
- Where to purchase a bat
- Where to go if you want to join a club outside your school

This is the kind of communication that impresses parents, makes young players feel they really matter, and attracts more people to the sport.



Nelson

Nelson is experiencing a growth rate never seen before. This year's interclub is bulging at the seams with many teams having to be turned away.

But no one has missed out as players have been channelled into other teams.

The winter season has been shortened and this has attracted many more players as people seem reluctant to commit themselves for too many weeks at a time.

The year is a busy one, with Summer Interclub and grade champs (11 weeks), the McDonalds Challenge - a mixed graded teams event (7 weeks), Winter Interclub and grade champs (11 weeks) and a fun time series (5 weeks). The latter includes handicap nights, special club team challenges, Nelson v Takaka match, Nelson v Tasman, and a special junior "have a go at all sorts night". In all, these series take up 35 weeks and we have more people taking part more often. If they choose to have a break they can, knowing they can return in a few weeks time and not be out for an entire season.

Nelson is striving to secure a building within the next year as the Academy is too small to cater for the huge demand. This will enable us to add a full time junior/schools competition, a business house competition and of course a place for social table tennis.



This year's Nelson Open was the biggest ever including the largest number of locals. The junior entry was huge.

Friday morning table tennis is also going well at the Academy, and most Nelson clubs are currently full to the brim.

Bryan Keane.

Ping Pong Diplomacy

Coinciding with the news of North and South Korea finally talking to each other is an announcement by the ITTF that they would favour the participation of a joint team from North and South Korea at the 2001 World Championships in Osaka. As both Koreas are powerful table tennis nations, a combined team would be a serious contender for the world title.

A political response from both sides is still awaited. The announcement was made by ITTF President, Adham Sharara, while in Osaka to inspect the World Championships facilities.

PLAYERS COLLARED

Strict refereeing at the North Island championships resulted in a number of players being asked to change out of collarless shirts and put on shirts with a collar. Controversy over this action gradually built up and, while the referee's interpretation of the rules must prevail, a number of players and officials considered that shirts without a collar were quite legal.

You decide: Law 3.2.2.1: "...clothing shall normally consist of a short sleeved shirt" (no mention of a collar); Law 3.2.2.2 "the main colour of the shirt, other than the sleeves and collar, shall be different from that of the ball..."

Obituaries:

Iris Rowntree passed on at 81. As Iris Dove she was New Zealand's Open Singles Champion in 1935 and 1936.

Isabel Cleland b.12/12/23. d.25/3/00

Isabel commenced her playing career in 1970 when she joined the Empire Club, Petone. Her playing highlight was winning the Australian Over 60's in 1985. She will be sadly missed. Isabel was a tremendous worker for her club and was a popular personality on both sides of the Tasman.

Reward for Growth

The United States TTA is offering prizes for the clubs who register the most new members into the USATT Individual Member database in the year 2000. Thanks to generous sponsorship support, the winning club gets a rollaway table; second prize is a table tennis robot machine and third a gross of Nittaku balls.

Coaches Count

is a new Hillary Commission campaign to promote coaching as an activity.

Table tennis has joined in and a table tennis version of the coaching booklet has been issued. It is available from district associations and TTNZ.



WORLD RANKINGS NZ Players (as at 26 June 2000)

Women

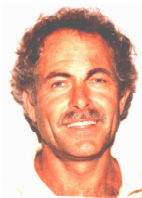
| | |
|-------------|-----|
| Li Chunli | 42 |
| Karen Li | 103 |
| Sarah Finch | 384 |

Men

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Peter Jackson | 146 |
| Shane Laugesen | 306 |
| Andrew Hubbard | 404 |
| Aaron Winborn | 431 |

My Serve

by **James Morris**



Preparing for International Competition

I have just returned home from the Oceania Champs as one of the coaches / managers of the New Zealand team. This was a new initiative where we had a large combined senior and junior team, which is part of the high performance plan of TTNZ. The trip was enjoyable and reinforced to me the importance of identifying strategic tournaments for elite players to aspire to.

I've been on both sides of the fence, so to speak, as both a player and a coach / manager. I'd like to share some points which I feel are necessary when attending international competition.

These include:

- **Team manager** - The role of the team manager I see as essential for the overall organisation of the tour, which includes travel, accommodation, food, discipline, publicity and being alert to possible playing contacts with other countries. If a manager is appointed I believe it leaves the coach much more time to concentrate on the players needs.
- **Coach** - The coach needs to create an environment whereby the players can prepare effectively for the tournament being targeted. The purpose is to clarify the players' aims, mentally preparing them for what they want to achieve individually and as a team. The coach needs to consult with overseas-based players and to allow all team members to meet and train together pre event. Time is needed to build morale and team spirit and this is very difficult when team members are based around the world. The coach must ensure players maintain top fitness levels and quality practice and match play.



Managers and Coaches -**Wayne Gear, James Morris, Simeon Cairns and Murray Finch** at the Oceania Championships.

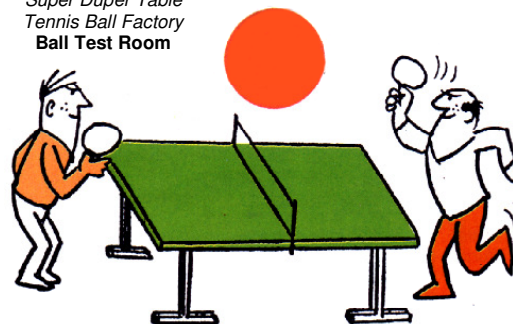
- **The player** - The player is part of the team and therefore has responsibilities and a commitment to the overall team objective. (This objective is decided upon in collaboration with coach, manager and team members.) Players selected need to be prepared to continue practise and work on fitness pre event. The players' attitudes can make or break a team's morale and affect players' performance. So players need to stay focused and think not only of themselves but also of their team-mates. I believe a player will perform better in a good team environment.
- **Supporters** - It was interesting to have a parent who was also a doctor on this trip to the Oceania Champs. Dr Lowe's services were called upon and it showed how valuable such a person can be on an overseas trip. I believe more supporters should be encouraged to travel with the teams.

I went to the Commonwealth and World Champs in 1977 in England with the New Zealand team. This trip became a hallmark for me because the trip was enjoyable and successful. It included a two-week training camp in NZ pre event, playing in an English tournament, and a two week tour of Czechoslovakia. This was excellent match play leading up to the Championships. It was all through the efforts of Athol Attwood, the manager, and coach Trevor Flint. I remember the morale and team spirit in the men's team was terrific. We had been together for approximately 6 weeks. It would be great in my position to be able to emulate such a trip and is a goal to try for, but of course the main problem is money!

Good serving

James

Super Duper Table
Tennis Ball Factory
Ball Test Room



"Are you sure you read the specs correctly?
This will really slow the game down!"

Larger Balls commencement dates.

The Board of TTNZ has decided that the new 40mm Ball is to be used at all Open tournaments in NZ from 1 May 2001. The existing 38mm ball may be used in local competitions up until 31 December 2001.

How to predict the future – **INVENT IT !!!**